



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6250.0 - Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2007

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## Summary

### Main Features

#### NOTES

#### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the labour force status and other characteristics of 'recent migrants'. For the purposes of this publication, recent migrants are defined as people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 1997, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, were not an Australian Citizen on arrival, were not born in New Zealand, do not hold New Zealand citizenship, and have permanent Australian resident status. Information is also provided for people who were temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more. See the Glossary for more information.

#### ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The 2007 Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey was conducted throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Monthly Population Survey. The survey was previously conducted in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2004. The name of the survey has changed since the survey was last conducted, from 'Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants' to 'Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants', to reflect a change in scope. In previous years information was collected from migrants who arrived in the 20 years prior to the survey's enumeration, while in 2007 information was collected from migrants who arrived in the 10 years prior to the survey's enumeration.

Unless otherwise specified, differences between data items highlighted in the Summary of Findings are statistically significant. See Technical Note (paragraphs 15 to 17) for further details.

#### ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

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#### **OVERVIEW**

In November 2007, the Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over comprised 16.4 million people (excluding institutionalised people and boarding school pupils; and people in very remote parts of Australia). Of these people 4.8 million (29%) were born overseas. (Table 1)

There were 1.1 million people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 1997, and were aged 15 years and over on arrival. This represents 7% of the total population aged 15 years and over. Of these,

- 57% were recent migrants, that is, people who were born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 1997, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, had obtained permanent Australian resident status prior to or after their arrival, were not born in New Zealand, were not New Zealand citizens, did not hold Australian citizenship before arrival and were planning to stay in Australia for more than 12 months.
- A further 25% were temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.
- The remaining 18% were people whose residency status was not able to be determined, those who planned to stay in Australia for less than 12 months and those who held New Zealand citizenship, held Australian citizenship before arrival, or were born in New Zealand. (Table 1)

Of the recent migrants and temporary residents, 77% were the main applicant on their visa application form when they most recently arrived in Australia to live. (Table 5)

#### **RECENT MIGRANTS**

In November 2007, there were 647,000 recent migrants. The majority (76%) were born in other than main English speaking countries, and 90% were aged 15-44 years on arrival in Australia. (Table 3)

There were 74,500 recent migrants who had a temporary visa on their most recent arrival to live in Australia, and had obtained a permanent visa (74%) or Australian citizenship (26%) by November 2007. Of those who were temporary residents on arrival and had since obtained a permanent visa, 54% held a skilled visa and 44% held a family visa. (Table 7)

#### **Employment**

In November 2007, 68% of recent migrants were employed, compared to 66% of those born

in Australia. Of those recent migrants who were employed, 77% were employed full time. Male recent migrants were more likely to be employed than recent female migrants (84% compared to 55%) (Table 2 and Table 3). Recent migrants with skilled visas were more likely to be employed than other recent migrants, with 79% of skilled recent migrants employed in November 2007, compared with 58% for those that held family visas and 67% for all recent migrants combined (Table 2). The proportion of employed recent migrants who had a job just before arrival was 76%, and approximately 48% of those people had changed their major occupation grouping since arriving in Australia (Table 9).

Almost four-fifths (79%) of recent migrants had a job at some time since arriving in Australia. Males were more likely to have had a job than females (89% compared to 70%). Of those who had not had a job since arriving, 21% had looked for a job, with males having had higher rates of job-seeking than females (32% and 17% respectively). Recent migrants born in main English-speaking countries were more likely to have had a job than those born in other than main English-speaking countries (88% compared to 76%). (Table 11)

### **Experienced difficulty finding employment**

Of the recent migrants who had a job at some time since arriving in Australia, 36% reported having experienced difficulty finding their first job. Of those who experienced difficulty, the most commonly reported difficulties were having a lack of Australian work experience or references (56%), language difficulties (35%) and having a lack of local contacts and networks (29%). (Table 12)

### **Receiving help to find employment**

Three-fifths (60%) of recent migrants reported receiving help finding employment when looking for their first job in Australia. The most common source of help reported by these people was friends or family, from whom 70% received help. (Table 12)

### **Length of time to find employment**

Of the recent migrants who had a job at some time since arriving in Australia, over half (54%) already had a job arranged before arriving in Australia or had found a job within 3 months of looking for work. Almost a quarter (24%) of recent migrants took more than 12 months to find a job after arrival. (Table 12)

### **Unemployment**

In November 2007, the unemployment rate for recent migrants was 5% compared with 4% for those born in Australia. The rate for male and female recent migrants was 4% and 6% respectively. This compares with 4% for both males and females born in Australia. (Table 2 and Table 3)

### **Labour force participation**

The labour force participation rate for recent migrants was 72%, with males (87%) having a higher rate than females (59%). In comparison, the participation rate for the Australian-born population was 69%. For males and females born in Australia, participation rates were 75% and 62% respectively. (Table 2 and Table 3)

Recent migrants who were born in main English-speaking countries had a higher participation rate than those born in other than main English-speaking countries (81% compared to 69%) (Table 3). The highest participation rate amongst recent migrants was for those who held skilled visas (83%) (Table 2).

## **Qualifications**

Three-fifths (60%) of recent migrants arrived in Australia with a non-school qualification. Of those who arrived with a non-school qualification, 62% arrived with a Bachelor Degree or higher, 17% arrived with an Advanced Diploma/Diploma and 19% arrived with a Certificate (Table 3). Just over one-third (34%) of recent migrants with a non-school qualification on arrival had their overseas qualifications recognised in Australia (Table 13). Over one-quarter (26%) of recent migrants had obtained a non-school qualification since arriving in Australia to live and of these, just over half (53%) had obtained a Bachelor Degree or higher. (Table 3).

Of the recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification before arriving in Australia and who had a job since arriving in Australia, 53% reported that they used their highest qualification in their first job in Australia. A further 21% of recent migrants had not used their highest qualification in their first job, but had tried to find work more suited to their qualifications. (Table 12)

## **Household Income**

Wages or salary was the main source of household income for the majority (83%) of recent migrants. The remainder sourced their main household income from 'government pension or allowance' (10%) or from an 'other' income source (7%). Those born in main English-speaking countries were more likely to have wages or salary as their main form of household income than those born in other than main English-speaking countries (93% and 80% respectively). (Table 10)

## **TEMPORARY RESIDENTS**

In November 2007 there were 285,100 temporary residents, of whom 84% were born in an other than main English-speaking country and 95% were aged 15-44 on arrival. (Table 3)

## **Employment**

In November 2007, the percentage of temporary residents who were employed (59%) was lower than that for recent migrants (68%) and those born in Australia (66%). The percentage of temporary residents who were employed varied across visa types: less than half (47%) of temporary residents with student visas were employed; while more than four-fifths (83%) of temporary residents with a long-term business visa were employed. Recent migrants were more likely to be employed full time than temporary residents, with 57% of employed temporary residents working full time compared to 77% for recent migrants. Of the employed temporary residents, those with a long-term business visa were the most likely to work full time with 92% of those with a long-term business visa working full time compared to 19% of those with a student visa. (Table 2 and Table 3)

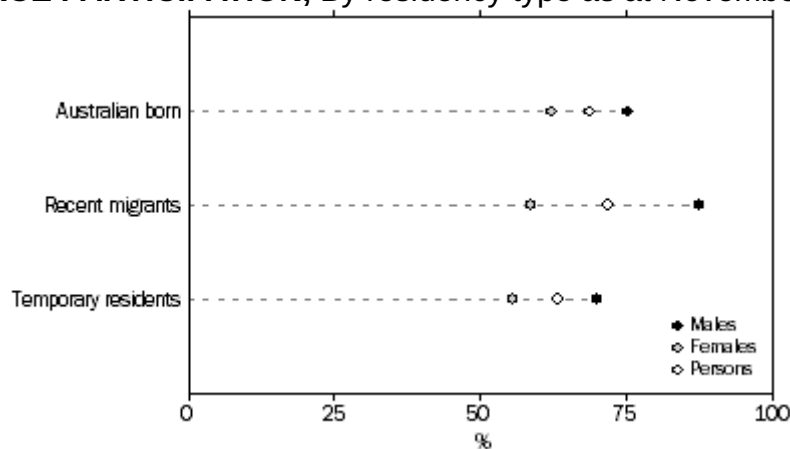
## Unemployment

The highest unemployment rate among temporary residents was 9% for those who held student visas. Those who held student visas also had the lowest labour force participation rate (52%). (Table 2)

## Labour force participation

The labour force participation rate for temporary residents (63%) was lower than for recent migrants (72%) and for those born in Australia (69%). As with recent migrants, male temporary residents participated to a greater extent than females (70% compared to 56%). The highest participation rate for temporary residents was for those persons holding long-term business visas (87%) and the lowest rate reported was for those with student visas (52%). (Table 2 and Table 3)

**LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, By residency type as at November 2007 and sex**



## Qualifications

Almost three-fifths (59%) of temporary residents had obtained a non-school qualification before arriving in Australia. Almost two thirds (65%) of these persons held a Bachelor Degree or higher. About one fifth (19%) of temporary residents had obtained a non-school qualification since arrival, with over half (54%) of those temporary residents completing a Bachelor Degree or higher. This is lower than the proportion for recent migrants and is consistent with the high proportion of temporary residents who hold student visas for the purpose of obtaining a qualification (55%). (Table 3)

## About this Release

Labour Force Participation and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants cross-tabulated by migration category, country of birth; educational attainment on arrival and whether occupation before migration was the same as current occupation. Estimates can be cross-classified by labour force demographics such as state, sex, age and marital status.

# History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 25/03/2011.

25/03/2011 The PDF and data cube have been replaced to amend the footnotes for Table 13.

## Explanatory Notes

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

##### INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, conducted throughout Australia in November 2007 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who were in the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 The publication **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)** contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about computer assisted and telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

##### CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

3 The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)** which is available on the ABS web site <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> (Methods, Classifications, Concepts & Standards).

##### SCOPE

4 The scope of the LFS included all persons aged 15 years and over and excluded the following people:

- members of the Australian permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys

- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

**5** Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

**6** This supplementary survey was conducted in both rural and urban areas in all states and territories, but excluded persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for approximately 23% of the population.

**7** This supplementary survey was restricted to persons who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 1997, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, and had either obtained permanent Australian resident status prior to or after arrival, or were temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more. Persons who were Australian citizens prior to their arrival in Australia, or who were born in New Zealand or held New Zealand citizenship, were excluded from the survey.

## COVERAGE

**8** The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in November 2007. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)** for more details.

## DATA COLLECTION

**9** Information was collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period during November 2007.

**10** The survey was conducted using a sub-sample of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) sample. The MPS, which is described in **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)**, comprises the monthly labour force topic and supplementary topics. The household sample for the MPS was selected using multistage sampling techniques. Seven-eighths of the private dwellings selected for the MPS were eligible for the survey. Information was obtained from all persons in the household who met the scope conditions of the supplementary survey. Information was obtained personally from each individual, although where two or more persons migrated on the same visa application when first coming to Australia to live for one year or more, a proxy interview may have been conducted with another person who migrated on the same visa application.

## SAMPLE SIZE

**11** Approximately 95% of selected households were fully responding to the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey. In total, 53,402 persons from about 29,000 selected private dwellings and special dwelling units were in the survey sample and either were out of scope for the supplementary survey or were in scope and

fully responded to the survey. A total of 2,530 complete interviews were obtained from persons who were in scope of the Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey.

## RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

**12** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient processing procedures.

## SEASONAL FACTORS

**13** The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

## CLASSIFICATIONS USED

### Country of birth

**14** Country of birth data are classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition, 2008 (cat. no. 1269.0).

### Occupation

**15** Occupation data are classified according to the ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation, First Edition, 2006 (cat. no. 1220.0).

### Industry

**16** Industry data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat. no. 1292.0).

### Education

**17** Educational attainment data are classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

## COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES



**18** Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Surveys conducted up to and including November 1996 were restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1970, were aged 18 years and over on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 1999, the survey was restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1980, were aged 18 years and over on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 2004, the survey included migrants aged 15 years and over on arrival, who arrived in Australia after 1984 who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. For November 2007, the survey included migrants who arrived in Australia after 1997 were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more, and excluded those born in New Zealand, those holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship prior to their arrival in Australia.

**19** Several changes to question wording were made to the 2007 survey. These changes were made to increase respondent understanding of the questions.

**20** Several changes to the data items collected were made to the 2007 survey. Data items relating to the country of last residence were not asked in 2007. Several new data items were collected in 2007, including the length of time before finding a job after arriving in Australia; selected details of the first job held in Australia; whether the highest non-school qualification obtained before arrival was used in the first job held in Australia; whether difficulties were experienced finding work in Australia; and whether help was received finding work in Australia. A complete list of data items collected in 2007 can be found in Appendix 1.

**21** It is impracticable to obtain information relating to labour force status of people before migration according to the strict definitions used in the monthly LFS. It is for this reason that 'Had a job' and 'Did not have a job' are used to describe previous labour force status, while 'Employed', 'Unemployed' and 'Not in the labour force' are used to describe labour force status as at November 2007.

## **COMPARABILITY WITH OTHER ABS SOURCES**

**22** Since the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey is conducted as a supplement to the LFS, data items collected in the LFS are also available. However, there are some important differences between the two surveys. The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey sample is a subset of the LFS sample (see Paragraph 10 of these Explanatory Notes) and the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey had a response rate of 95% which is lower than the LFS response rate for the same period of 96%. Due to these differences between the samples, the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey data are weighted as a separate process to the weighting of LFS data. Differences may therefore be found in the estimates collected in the LFS and published as part of the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, when compared with estimates published in the November 2007 issue of **Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)**.

**23** Additionally, estimates from the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey may differ from the estimates produced from other ABS collections, for several reasons. The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey is a sample survey and its results are subject to sampling error. Results may differ from other sample surveys, which are also subject to sampling error. Users should take account of the relative standard errors (RSEs) on estimates and those of other survey

estimates where comparisons are made.

**24** Differences may also exist in the scope and/or coverage of the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey compared to other surveys. Differences in estimates, when compared to the estimates of other surveys, may result from different reference periods reflecting seasonal variations, non-seasonal events that may have impacted on one period but not another, or because of underlying trends in the phenomena being measured.

**25** Finally, differences can occur as a result of using different collection methodologies. This is often evident in comparisons of similar data items reported from different ABS collections where, after taking account of definition and scope differences and sampling error, residual differences remain. These differences could be partly attributed to differing modes of the collections, such as whether data is collected by an interviewer or self-enumerated by the respondent, whether the data is collected from the person themselves or from a proxy respondent, and the level of experience of the interviewers. Differences may also result from the context in which questions are asked, i.e. where in the interview the questions are asked and the nature of preceding questions. The impacts on data of different collection methodologies are difficult to quantify.

**26** The following table, Comparison of Data, Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey and Labour Force Survey, presents comparisons between some broad level data items that were collected from all persons aged 15 years and over on the LFS in November 2007 in the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey. The comparison shows that Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey data are broadly consistent with LFS data.

#### **COMPARISON OF DATA, Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey and Labour Force Survey**

	<b>Labour Force Survey, November 2007 %</b>	<b>Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, November 2007 %</b>
<b>LABOUR FORCE STATUS</b>		
Employed full-time	44.8	45.7
Employed part-time	17.5	17.8
Total employed	62.3	63.5
Unemployed	2.7	2.7
Not in the labour force	35.1	33.8
<b>COUNTRY OF BIRTH AND YEAR OF ARRIVAL</b>		
Born in Australia	70.0	70.8
Born overseas	30.0	29.2
Arrived before 1998	22.8	21.8
Arrived after 1997	7.2	7.4

#### **COMPARABILITY WITH NON-ABS SOURCES**

**27** The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) are the main holder of data containing personal information on migrants. Due to differences in collection objectives and definitions, data from the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey are not comparable with DIAC data.

## PREVIOUS SURVEYS

28 Results of previous surveys have been published in:

- Characteristics of Migrants Aged 18 Years and Over at the Time of Arrival and Who Arrived after 1960, Australia, March 1984 (cat. no. 6250.0)
- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, March 1987 (cat. no. 6250.0)
- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, September 1990 (cat. no. 6250.0)
- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, September 1993 (cat. no. 6250.0)
- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, November 1996 (cat. no. 6250.0)
- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, November 1999 (cat. no. 6250.0)
- Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia, November 2004 (cat. no. 6250.0).

## NEXT SURVEY

29 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in November 2010.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

30 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

31 ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- Australian Labour Market Statistics, cat. no. 6105.0
- Job Search Experience, Australia, cat. no. 6222.0
- Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0
- Labour Force Experience, Australia cat. no. 6206.0.

32 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the ABS web site <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site (Future releases) which details products to be released in the week ahead. The Migrant and Ethnicity theme page also contains a wealth of information and useful resources. This site can be accessed through the ABS web site <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>.

# Glossary

## GLOSSARY

### Australian citizen

Being an Australian citizen formalises a person's membership of the Australian community. It entitles a person to live permanently in Australia, hold an Australian passport and do such things as vote to elect Australia's governments, stand for parliament, work in the Public Service and serve in the armed forces. A person may acquire Australian citizenship in a number of ways, for example, by birth, adoption, descent, resumption or grant of Australian citizenship (naturalisation). Migrants no longer require a visa once citizenship is granted.

### Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001 ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classifications of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0)**.

### Balance of state/territory

This area comprises the region outside the six state capital Statistical Divisions. The area includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (except those in very remote areas).

### Country of birth

Country of birth has been classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition, 2008 (cat. no. 1269.0)**.

### Employed

Persons who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business or farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
  - on strike or locked out; or
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
  - were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

## **Employed full time**

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 or more during the reference week.

## **Employed part time**

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

## **Had a job since arrival**

Includes persons who currently have a job or who had a job at some time since their arrival.

## **Job network or employment agency**

A government or private agency that provides various kinds of support for people looking for work, to help them find and keep a job.

## **Labour force**

Persons who were in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

## **Level of highest non-school qualification**

Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest qualification a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

It is categorised according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0)** Level of Education classification.

## **Main applicant**

The 'main applicant' is generally the person whose skills or proposed activities in Australia are assessed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) as part of their visa application. They will usually have been specifically identified on the application form as the 'main applicant'.

## **Main English-speaking countries**

This refers to the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and the United States of America.

## **Main field of non-school qualification**

Main field of non-school qualification is defined as the subject matter of the qualification. It is categorised according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0)** Field of Education classification.

## **Non-school qualification**

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be obtained concurrently with school qualifications.

## **Not in the labour force**

Persons who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

## **Occupation**

From 2006, occupation is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006 (cat. no. 1220.0)**.

## **Other applicant**

A person whose visa was granted on the basis of being the family member (eg. spouse, dependent child) of a person who qualified for a visa. They will have been identified on the visa application as an 'other' or secondary applicant with the person who met the visa criteria being specifically identified on the visa application as the 'main applicant'.

## **Participation rate**

For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of all persons aged 15 years and over in the same group.

## **Permanent visa**

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to live in Australia permanently.

## **Recent migrant**

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 1997, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen on arrival, was not born in New Zealand, does not hold New Zealand citizenship, and has permanent Australian resident status.

## **Reference week**

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

## **State capital cities**

This area comprises the Statistical Divisions of the six state capital cities which are defined in the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2007 (cat. no. 1216.0)**.

## **Temporary resident**

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 1997, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen on arrival, was not born in New Zealand, does

not hold New Zealand citizenship, and has a temporary visa.

### **Temporary visa**

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign national to travel to Australia and stay up to a specified period of time. Temporary entrants for this survey include:

- tourists
- students
- business people
- people with specialist skills, such as managers, academics and medical practitioners
- people who make a social or cultural contribution to the community, such as entertainers, media and film staff, sports people, religious workers, visiting academics and public lecturers
- people who contribute to the development of international relations, such as participants in exchange programs and working holiday makers.

### **Type of visa as at November 2007**

The visa the respondent held at the time of interview, that allowed them to stay in Australia. Categories for type of visa as at November 2007 are:

- Permanent Skilled - Skilled migrants are selected on the basis of their age, skills and their ability to quickly make a contribution to the Australian economy. Includes Independent, Australian sponsored, Employer/State sponsored and Business skills visas.
- Permanent Family - Includes partner, child and parent visas.
- Permanent Humanitarian - Includes humanitarian and refugee visas.
- Permanent Other - Includes all other permanent visa categories or where the type of permanent visa could not be determined.
- Temporary Student - Temporary student visas are granted to people studying or seeking study, training or skills development in Australia and planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.
- Temporary Long-term business - Includes Temporary Business (Long stay) - standard business sponsorship visa, Educational visa and Medical practitioner visa.
- Temporary Other - Includes tourists, working holiday makers and visitors planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more or where the type of temporary visa could not be determined.

### **Type of visa on most recent arrival to live in Australia**

The visa the respondent held when they most recently arrived in Australia to live that allowed them to come to Australia. Categories for type of visa on most recent arrival to live in Australia are as for 'Type of visa as at November 2007'.

### **Unemployed**

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and;

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

## Unemployment rate

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

## Abbreviations

### ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this publication:

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
LFS	Labour Force Survey (Australia)
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

## POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

#### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the person in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.



**Population 1**

All persons aged 15 years and over.

**Population 2**

Recent migrants and temporary residents.

**Population 3**

Recent migrants.

**Population 4**

Recent migrants who hold Australian citizenship.

**Population 5**

Recent migrants and temporary residents who had a job just before arrival.

**Population 6**

Recent migrants and temporary residents who have had a job since arrival.

**Population 7**

Recent migrants who have had a job since arrival.

**Population 8**

Recent migrants and temporary residents who have not had a job in Australia.

**Population 9**

All persons aged 15 years and over who are currently employed.

**Population 10**

Recent migrants and temporary residents who are currently employed.

**Population 11**

Recent migrants with a non-school qualification on arrival.

## Population 12

Recent migrants and temporary residents with a non-school qualification on arrival.

## Population 13

Recent migrants born in other than main English-speaking countries.

Data items	Populations
1 State or territory of usual residence	All
New South Wales	
Victoria	
Queensland	
South Australia	
Western Australia	
Tasmania	
Northern Territory	
Australian Capital Territory	
Australia	
2 Area of usual residence	All
State capital city	
Balance of state/territory	
3 Region of usual residence	All
Standard labour force dissemination regions	
4 Sex	All
Males	
Females	
5 Marital status	All
Married	
Not married	
6 Relationship in household	All
Family member	
Husband, wife or partner	
Lone parent	
Dependent student	
Other family person	
Non-family member	
Lone person	
Not living alone	
Relationship not determined	
7 Country of birth (1)	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Born in main English-speaking countries	
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	
8 Country of birth (2)	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Oceania and Antarctica	
North-West Europe	
Southern and Eastern Europe	
North Africa and the Middle East	
South-East Asia	
North-East Asia	
Southern and Central Asia	
Americas	
Sub-Saharan Africa	
Other	
9 Year of arrival	All
1998-1999	
2000-2001	
2002	

2003	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007 to survey date	
Note: Year of arrival collected in single years	
10 Period of residence	All
Less than 12 months	
1 to less than 3 years	
3 to less than 5 years	
5 to less than 8 years	
8 to 10 years	
11 Age group (years)	All
15-19	
20-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45 and over	
Note: Age collected in single years	
12 Number of persons who are usual residents in the household	All
Collected in single numbers	
13 Labour force status	All
Employed as at November 2007	
Unemployed	
Not in the labour force	
14 Full time or part time status of work last week	9
Worked 35 or more hours last week	
Worked 1-34 hours last week	
Employed but did not work last week	
15 Full time or part time status of usual work	9
Usually works full time	
Usually works part time	
Does not usually work	
16 Status in employment	9
Employee	
Employer	
Own account worker	
Contributing family worker	
17 Occupation in current job or business	9
Managers	
Professionals	
Technicians and trades workers	
Community and personal service workers	
Clerical and administrative workers	
Sales workers	
Machinery operators and drivers	
Labourers	
18 Industry of current job or business	9
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	
Mining	
Manufacturing	
Electricity, gas, water and waste Services	
Construction	
Wholesale trade	
Retail trade	
Accommodation and food services	
Transport, postal and warehousing	
Information media and telecommunications	
Finance and insurance services	
Rental, hiring and real estate services	
Professional, scientific and technical services	
Administrative and support services	
Public administration and safety	
Education and training	
Health care and social assistance	
Arts and recreation services	

	Other services	
19	Multiple job holder	9
	One job only	
	More than one job	
20	Hours usually worked in all jobs or businesses	9
	Collected in single hours	
21	Migration summary	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Arrived before 1998	
	Arrived after 1997	
	Aged less than 15 years on arrival	
	Aged 15 years and over on arrival	
	Migrants and temporary residents	
	Migrants	
	Temporary residents	
	Status not determined	
	Australian/New Zealand citizen before arrival or currently holds	
	New Zealand citizenship	
	Planning to stay less than 12 months	
22	Age on arrival in Australia	All
	15-19	
	20-24	
	25-34	
	35-44	
	45 and over	
	Note: Age on arrival collected in single years	
23	Current proficiency in spoken English	2
	Mainly speaks English at home	
	Very well	
	Well	
	Not well	
	Not at all	
24	Proficiency in spoken English on arrival	2
	Mainly speaks English at home	
	Very well	
	Well	
	Not well	
	Not at all	
	Could not be determined	
25	Whether an Australian citizen	2
	Is an Australian citizen	
	Is not an Australian citizen	
	Could not be determined	
26	Visa type as at November 2007	2
	Permanent	
	Skilled	
	Family	
	Humanitarian	
	Other	
	Temporary	
	Student	
	Long-term business	
	Other	
	Status not determined	
	Australian citizen	
27	Type of visa on most recent arrival to live in Australia	2
	Permanent	
	Skilled	
	Family	
	Humanitarian	
	Other	
	Temporary	
	Student	
	Long-term business	
	Other	

	Status not determined	
28	Visa category before becoming an Australian citizen	4
	Permanent	
	Skilled	
	Family	
	Humanitarian	
	Other	
	Status not determined	
29	Residency status as at November 2007	2
	Permanent residency	
	Permanent visa	
	Australian citizen	
	Temporary residency	
	Status not determined	
30	Residency status on most recent arrival to live in Australia	2
	Permanent residency	
	Temporary residency	
	Status not determined	
31	Whether temporary resident before becoming a permanent resident	3
	Had temporary residency before permanent residency	
	Did not have temporary residency before permanent residency	
	Could not be determined	
32	Whether main applicant for visa application on most recent arrival to live in Australia	2
	Main applicant	
	Other applicant	
	Could not be determined	
33	Whether main applicant for visa held as at November 2007	2
	Was main applicant	
	Was not main applicant	
	Could not be determined	
34	Whether main applicant for visa held before becoming an Australian citizen	4
	Was main applicant	
	Was not main applicant	
	Could not be determined	
35	Level of highest non-school qualification obtained before arrival	2
	Obtained a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Bachelor degree or higher	
	Advanced diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate	
	Did not obtain a non-school qualification before arrival	
36	Level of highest non-school qualification obtained since arrival	2
	Obtained a non-school qualification since arrival	
	Bachelor degree or higher	
	Advanced diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate	
	Has not obtained a non-school qualification since arrival	
37	Main field of highest non-school qualification obtained before arrival	2
	Obtained a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Natural and physical sciences	
	Information technology	
	Engineering and related technologies	
	Architecture and building	
	Agriculture, environmental and related studies	
	Health	
	Education	
	Management and commerce	
	Society and culture	
	Creative arts	
	Food, hospitality and personal services	
	Mixed field programmes	
	Field not determined	
	Did not obtain a non-school qualification before arrival	
38	Main field of highest non-school qualification obtained since arrival	2
	Obtained a non-school qualification since arrival	
	Natural and physical sciences	
	Information technology	

	Engineering and related technologies	
	Architecture and building	
	Agriculture, environmental and related studies	
	Health	
	Education	
	Management and commerce	
	Society and culture	
	Creative arts	
	Food, hospitality and personal services	
	Mixed field programmes	
	Field not determined	
	Has not obtained a non-school qualification since arrival	
39	Whether has applied for highest non-school qualification to be assessed for recognition in Australia	12
	Has applied	
	Has not applied	
	Could not be determined	
40	Whether highest non-school qualification obtained before arrival has been recognised in Australia	12
	Has been recognised	
	Has not been recognised	
	Could not be determined if has been recognised	
	Could not be determined if applied to have highest non-school qualification assessed for recognition	
	Did not apply to have highest non-school qualification assessed for recognition	
41	Whether had a job just before arrival	2
	Had a job	
	Did not have a job	
	Could not be determined	
42	Whether worked full time or part time just before arrival	5
	Full time	
	Part time	
	Could not be determined	
43	Occupation in main job just before arrival	5
	Managers	
	Professionals	
	Technicians and trades workers	
	Community and personal service workers	
	Clerical and administrative workers	
	Sales workers	
	Machinery operators and drivers	
	Labourers	
	Could not be determined	
44	Whether has worked since arriving in Australia to live	2
	Has worked	
	Has not worked	
45	Whether occupation in main job just before arrival is same as occupation as at November 2007	5
	Currently employed	
	Same major occupation group	
	Different major occupation group	
	Not currently employed	
	Could not be determined	
46	Length of time before finding a job after arriving in Australia	2
	Has had a job since arriving in Australia	
	Already had job arranged	
	1 month or less	
	2 or 3 months	
	4 to 6 months	
	7 to 12 months	
	More than 12 months	
	Has not had a job since arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
47	Occupation in first job held in Australia	6
	Managers	
	Professionals	
	Technicians and trades workers	
	Community and personal service workers	
	Clerical and administrative workers	
	Sales workers	

	Machinery operators and drivers	
	Labourers	
	Could not be determined	
48	Whether worked full time or part time in first job held in Australia	6
	Full time	
	Part time	
	Could not be determined	
49	Whether used highest non-school qualification obtained before arrival in first job held in Australia	6
	Obtained a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Used highest non-school qualification	
	Did not use highest non-school qualification	
	Did not obtain a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Could not be determined	
50	Whether tried to find work more suited to highest non-school qualification when got initial job in Australia	5
	Obtained a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Tried to find work more suited	
	Did not try to find work more suited	
	Obtained work suited to qualification	
	Did not obtain a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Could not be determined	
51	Length of time spent in first job held in Australia	5
	1 month or less	
	2 or 3 months	
	4 to 6 months	
	7 to 12 months	
	More than 12 months	
	Still employed in first job held since arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
52	Number of jobs held since arriving in Australia	5
	1 job	
	2 jobs	
	3 jobs	
	4 jobs	
	5 jobs or more	
	Could not be determined	
53	Whether used highest non-school qualification obtained before arrival in job held as at November 2007	10
	Obtained a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Used highest non-school qualification	
	Did not use highest non-school qualification	
	Did not obtain a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Could not be determined	
54	Whether tried to find work more suited to highest non-school qualification when got job held in November 2007	10
	Obtained a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Tried to find work more suited	
	Did not try to find work more suited	
	Obtained work suited to qualification	
	Did not obtain a non-school qualification before arrival	
	Could not be determined	
55	Whether experienced difficulty finding a job/first job in Australia	6
	Experienced difficulty finding a job	
	Did not experience difficulty finding a job	
	Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
56	All difficulties experienced finding a job/first job	6
	Experienced difficulty	
	Language difficulties	
	Lack of Australian work experience/references	
	Lack of local contacts/networks	
	Skills or qualifications not recognised	
	Ethnic or cultural barriers	
	Don't know how or where to apply for jobs	
	Visa type/restrictions	
	No jobs or vacancies in locality/line of work/at all	
	Other	
	Did not experience difficulty	

	Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
57	Main difficulty finding a job/first job	6
	Experienced difficulty	
	Language difficulties	
	Lack of Australian work experience/references	
	Lack of local contacts/networks	
	Skills or qualifications not recognised	
	Ethnic or cultural barriers	
	Don't know how or where to apply for jobs	
	Visa type/restrictions	
	No jobs or vacancies in locality/line of work/at all	
	Other	
	Did not experience difficulty	
	Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
58	Whether experienced difficulty finding job held as at November 2007	10
	Experienced difficulty finding a job	
	Did not experience difficulty finding a job	
	Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
59	All difficulties experienced finding job held as at November 2007	10
	Experienced difficulty	
	Language difficulties	
	Lack of Australian work experience/references	
	Lack of local contacts/networks	
	Skills or qualifications not recognised	
	Ethnic or cultural barriers	
	Don't know how or where to apply for jobs	
	Visa type/restrictions	
	No jobs or vacancies in locality/line of work/at all	
	Other	
	Did not experience difficulty	
	Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
60	Main difficulty finding job held as at November 2007	10
	Experienced difficulty	
	Language difficulties	
	Lack of Australian work experience/references	
	Lack of local contacts/networks	
	Skills or qualifications not recognised	
	Ethnic or cultural barriers	
	Don't know how or where to apply for jobs	
	Visa type/restrictions	
	No jobs or vacancies in locality/line of work/at all	
	Other	
	Did not experience difficulty	
	Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia	
	Could not be determined	
61	Whether has looked for work since arriving in Australia	8
	Has looked for work	
	Has not looked for work	
	Could not be determined	
62	Whether received help finding a job when looking for a job/first job in Australia	6
	Received help	
	Did not receive help	
	Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia	
63	All sources of help looking for a job/first job in Australia	6
	Received help	
	Migrant association or refugee settlement organisation	
	Church or community group	
	Centrelink	
	Job Network or employment agency	
	Educational institution	
	Friends or family	
	Other source	



Did not receive help  
 Already had job arranged before arriving in Australia  
 64 Main source of household income  
     Wages or salary  
     Government pension or allowance  
     Other source

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2

## SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 2 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

#### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program collects data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary surveys to the monthly labour force survey. Data from these surveys are available in publication form from the ABS website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. Additional data are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	cat. no.	Frequency	Latest issue
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2006-2007
Career Experience, Australia	6254.0	Irregular	November 2002
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2007
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2007
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2006
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2007
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2007
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia(a)	6224.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2007
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2006
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2005
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(b)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Participation in Education, Australia	6272.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1999
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2007
Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Australia	4913.0	Irregular	November 2005
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Irregular	2006-2007
Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia	6266.0	Irregular	July 2001
Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia	6245.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2007
Working Time Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Irregular	November 2006
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2005-2006

(a) Latest data is for June 2005, available only from data cubes on the ABS web site (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001), or on request.

(b) Latest data is for July 2001, available on request only.

# Quality Declaration - Summary

## QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

### INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

### RELEVANCE

The main purpose of this survey was to collect information on persons who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 1997, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, and had either obtained permanent Australian resident status prior to or after arrival, or were temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more. Persons who were Australian citizens prior to their arrival in Australia, were born in New Zealand or have New Zealand citizenship were excluded from the survey. The type of information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), job characteristics (before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (such as visa category and residency status on most recent arrival to live in Australia and as at November 2007).

### TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Survey was first conducted in 1984 and triennially thereafter up to 1999. It was collected again in 2004 and the latest survey was in 2007. The name of the survey was also changed in 2007 to Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, to better reflect the scope of the survey. Data from the survey are released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration.

### ACCURACY

The number of completed interviews (after taking into account scope and coverage exclusions) for the Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey was 53,402, of which 2,530 were recent migrants. This sample was achieved by obtaining a response rate of 95% from about 29,000 selected private dwellings and special dwelling units. The exclusion of people living in very remote parts of Australia has only a minor impact on aggregate estimates, except for the Northern Territory where these people account for around 23% of the population.

The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling

error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

## **COHERENCE**

The ABS has previously conducted a survey of recent migrants in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2004. While the ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey; sound survey practice requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. There were a number of changes to the survey between 2004 and 2007. In 2004 migrants who had arrived in the previous 20 years were included in the survey. In 2007 only migrants who had arrived in the previous 10 years were included. There were also new and reworded questions in the 2007 survey. This means results from these surveys are not comparable. For a more detailed discussion on the differences between surveys see the Explanatory Notes.

Data were compared to non-ABS sources of information available. Comparisons conducted by the ABS showed that the data from this survey are not comparable with other available sources due to differences in definitions, scope and collection methods.

## **INTERPRETABILITY**

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants publication contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Technical Notes and a Glossary that provide information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

In addition to the PDF publication, the tables and associated RSEs are available in spreadsheet form on the website.

Data are also available on request. Note that detailed data can be subject to high relative standard errors and, in some cases may result in data being confidentialised.

An expanded confidentialised unit record file will be produced for this survey and is expected to be released in June 2008.

For further information about these or related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Centre on 1300 135 070.

## Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

25/03/2011 The datacube has been replaced to amend the footnotes for Table 13.

## Publication (I-Note) - Publication

25/03/2011 The PDF has been replaced to amend the footnotes for Table 13.

## DATA QUALITY (Technical Note)

### TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

#### INTRODUCTION

**1** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings (or occupants) was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

**2** Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate:

$$RSE\% = \left( \frac{SE}{estimate} \right) \times 100$$

**3** RSEs for estimates from the Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey are published for the first time in 'direct' form. Previously a statistical model was produced that related the size of estimates to their corresponding RSEs, and this information was displayed via an 'SE table'. From this point onwards, RSEs for the Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey are calculated for each separate estimate and published individually. The Jackknife method of variance estimation is used for this process, which involves the calculation of 30 'replicate' estimates based on 30 different subsamples of the original sample. The variability of estimates obtained from these subsamples is used to estimate the sample variability surrounding the main estimate.

**4** Limited publication space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs and/or RSEs of all the estimates in this publication, only RSEs for Table 1 have been included at the end of these Technical Notes. However, RSEs for all tables are available free-of-charge on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>. released in spreadsheet format as an attachment to this publication, **Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, November 2007 (cat. no. 6250.0)**.

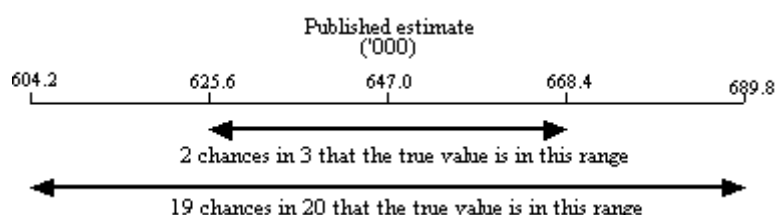
**5** In the tables in this publication, only estimates (numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*2.1) to indicate they are considered too unreliable for general use.

## CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

**6** SEs can be calculated using the estimates (count or means) and the corresponding RSEs. For example, Table 1 shows the estimated number of persons who were recent migrants is 647,000. The RSE table for Table 1, with the RSEs corresponding to the estimates in Table 1, is included at the end of these Technical Notes. This shows the RSE for the estimate is 3.3%. The SE is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 SE \text{ of estimate} &= \left( \frac{RSE}{100} \right) \times \text{estimate} \\
 &= 0.033 \times 647,000 \\
 &= 21,400 \text{ (rounded to nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**7** Therefore there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 625,600 to 668,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 604,200 to 689,800. This example is illustrated below.



**8** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

**9** For example in Table 1, the estimate for the total number of persons who were recent migrants is 647,000. The estimated number of males who were recent migrants is 299,300, so of all persons who were recent migrants, the proportion who were males is  $(299,300 / 647,000) \times 100$  or 46.3%.

**10** From the RSE table for Table 1, included at the end of these Technical Notes, the RSE of the total number of persons who were recent migrants is 3.3% and the RSE of the number of males who were recent migrants is 4.1%. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is

$$RSE = \sqrt{(4.1)^2 - (3.3)^2} = 2.4\%$$

**11** This then gives an SE of the percentage (46.3%) of  $(2.4/100) \times 46.3 = 1.1$  percentage points.

**12** Therefore there are about two chances in three that the proportion of recent migrants who were males is between 45.2% and 47.4% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the ranges 44.1% and 48.5%.

**DIFFERENCES**

**13** Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**14** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

**SIGNIFICANCE TESTING**

**15** The statistical significance test for any of the comparisons between estimates was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in paragraph 13. This standard error is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\left( \frac{x-y}{SE(x-y)} \right)$$

**16** If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there is good evidence of a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations.

**17** The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and recording by interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

**RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR**

**18** Relative Standard Errors for Table 1 are included below. However, RSEs for all tables are available free-of-charge on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>, released in spreadsheet format as an attachment to this publication.

**TABLE 1 RSEs: ALL PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Migration status as at November 2007 - By sex**

	Males	Females	Persons	Proportion of all persons
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	%	%	%	%
Born in Australia	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Born overseas	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Arrived before 1998	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.2
Arrived after 1997	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.7
Aged less than 15 years on arrival	12.3	11.3	9.0	9.0
Aged 15 years and over on arrival	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.6
Recent migrants and temporary residents	3.7	2.9	2.7	2.7
Recent migrant	4.1	3.5	3.3	3.3
Temporary resident	7.2	7.3	6.5	6.5
Status not determined	58.9	49.8	51.2	51.2
Australian/New Zealand citizen before arrival, currently holds New Zealand citizenship or born in New Zealand	7.7	7.8	7.3	7.3
Planning to stay less than 12 months	36.0	28.9	25.5	25.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>

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